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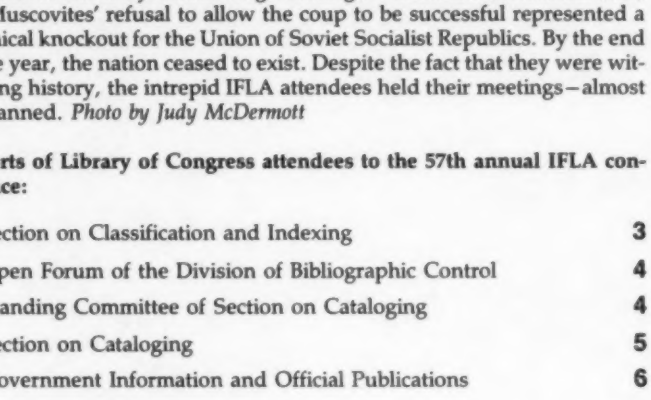
Librarian of Congress



On the Cover: TKO: The Aug. 19–21 aborted coup attempt in Moscow greeted attendees to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). During the upheaval, the statue of Feliks Dzerzhinsky, founder of the KGB (building at left), was brought down, replaced by a prerevolutionary Russian flag. Although it was not known at the time, the Muscovites' refusal to allow the coup to be successful represented a technical knockout for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. By the end of the year, the nation ceased to exist. Despite the fact that they were witnessing history, the intrepid IFLA attendees held their meetings—almost as planned. *Photo by Judy McDermott*

Reports of Library of Congress attendees to the 57th annual IFLA conference:

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Business Almost as Usual at 57th IFLA Conference

As reported in the LC *Information Bulletin* issues of Sept. 9 and Oct. 7, 1991, those attending the 57th annual conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), held in Moscow Aug. 18–24, witnessed revolution in the making.

The Aug. 19–21 coup attempt against the Soviet presidency of Mikhail Gorbachev greeted many, but the intrepid IFLA attendees held their meetings nonetheless. Some of the events at the meetings were overshadowed by the upheaval, but as the following reports indicate, most of the meetings were business-as-usual.

These reports were written before the eventual breakup of the U.S.S.R. It is thus impossible to predict how the goals achieved and the work accomplished during the conference will be affected by the change.

In addition to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, the following traveled to Moscow as representatives for the Library:

☐ Julianne Beall of the Decimal Classification Division, Collections Services

☐ John Byrum of Descriptive Cataloging, Collections Services

☐ Kimberly Dobbs of the Serial Record Division, Collections Services

☐ Kevin Flood of the Cataloging Distribution Service, Constituent Services

☐ Sally McCallum of the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Collections Services

☐ Judy McDermott of the Exchange and Gift Division, Collections Services

☐ Kathryn Mendenhall of the Cataloging Distribution Service

☐ Natalia Montviloff of the Shared Cataloging Division, Collections Services

☐ Henry Paris of the Materials Development Division, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Constituent Services

☐ William Robinson of the Congressional Research Service

☐ Merrily Smith of the Preservation Office, Collections Services

☐ Winston Tabb, then acting Deputy Librarian of Congress and current associate librarian for Collections Services, and

☐ Susan Tarr of the Cataloging Distribution Service.

Section on Classification And Indexing

For the Aug. 21 program meeting of the Section on Classification and Indexing, Olga Lavryonova of the Lenin State Library spoke about subject access in the on-line public access catalog using the Library Bibliographic Classification (LBC).

LBC was selected to approximate the classed catalogs with which readers are familiar in card form. Each division of the classification scheme is stored in an authority record in a MARC-like format. The authority records contain the classification heading and its notation, references for related, broader and variant headings, and notes of various types such as scope notes, classification instructions and sample dialogues to help the user learn to search in the on-line catalog.

Next, Marietou Diongue Diop of the Universite Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar spoke about the problems of indexing and classification in African libraries, drawing on her survey of African libraries (20 responses in Francophone Africa, 12 in Anglophone Africa). Problems included nonuse of standard subject authority lists and classification schemes by many libraries, inadequate coverage of African topics in standard lists and classification schemes, inadequate coverage of African materials in foreign data bases and lack of widespread access to computer equipment needed to benefit from new technologies.

Then Nancy Williamson of the University of Toronto reported on the Fifth International Study Conference on Classification Research held in Toronto June 24–28, 1991, with 54 participants from 10 countries.

There were papers on the origins of classification, on specific classification systems, on thesauri and on new approaches. The proceedings will be published by Elsevier by early 1992.

When the Standing Committee of the Section on Classification and Indexing met, Dorothy McGarry of the University of California at Los Angeles was reelected as chair, and Donna Duncan of McGill University was reelected as secretary. The standing committee agreed to sponsor a preseminar on the different subject heading systems of the world to be held just before the 1993 IFLA conference.

Precoordination and postcoordination will be among the themes covered. Ines Lopes of the Biblioteca Nacional in Portugal will chair the planning committee.

The working group sponsored by the Section on Classification and Indexing to prepare *Guidelines for Subject Authorities and References* met to go over remaining problems with the draft before the working group chair, Werner Stephan of the Deutsche Bibliothek, turns the draft over to the UBCIM (Universal Bibliographic Control International MARC) office to be distributed for worldwide review.

The section-sponsored Working Group on Principles for the Construction of Subject Headings, with Elaine Svenonius of the University of California at Los Angeles as chair, developed a short list of principles underlying subject heading

languages. Working group members will circulate the list for comment in their countries and provide examples of the principles from their subject heading systems.

—*Julianne Beall*

Open Forum of the Division Of Bibliographic Control

At the Aug. 18 Open Forum of the Division of Bibliographic control, Françoise Bourdon of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris gave a progress report on her work with name authority files.

Her work began with a survey of automated name authority files used for national bibliographies that she did with Marcelle Beaudiquez, the final report of which appeared in the UBCIM (Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC) Publications series under the title *Management and Use of Name Authority Files: Personal Names, Corporate Bodies and Uniform Titles: Evaluation and Prospects* (1991). One of the conclusions of the study is that the IFLA publication *Names of Persons* needs to be revised. As a preliminary step, Ms. Bourdon will survey the needs of potential users and will report the results at the 1992 IFLA conference.

Ms. Bourdon received a Vosper Fellowship for 1990–1991 to pursue the question of how IFLA can contribute to solving the problems of name authority control at the international level. She studied the literature on the subject and examined automated authority files in eight different countries. She has sent her final report to the IFLA Secretariat.

The Medium-Term Programme for 1992–1997 of the Division of Bibliographic Control and its three sections were presented. Ross Bourne of the British Library stressed that the division's general aim is to support IFLA's program for Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC. Among the goals of the Section on Bibliography that he mentioned are improvement of national bibliographic control, improvement of bibliographic control of national and international "gray literature," study of the effectiveness of bibliographic services in relation to users' needs and promotion of bibliographic knowledge.

Nancy John of the University of Illinois at Chicago said that among the goals the Section on Cataloging is considering are proposals for simplification of the International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions, providing programs on retrospective conversion, examining language-dependent cataloging practices and their effects on international exchange of records, and proposing methods to improve the handling of multi-script records.

Dorothy McGarry of the University of California at Los Angeles said that among the goals of the Section on Classification and Indexing are furthering opportunities for communication in the areas of classification and subject indexing and promoting standardization and uniform application of classification and subject indexing tools by identifying and working on needed standards.

—*Julianne Beall*

Standing Committee Of Section on Cataloguing

The Standing Committee of the Section on Cataloguing met Aug. 17 and 21, with Nancy John of the University of Illinois at Chicago in the chair. Several noteworthy matters were reported or decided:

A Medium-Term Programme, covering 1992–97, was approved. Among initiatives anticipated are regional conferences to provide continuing education in universal bibliographic control; sites now under consideration include those in Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe.

Retrospective conversion of bibliographic files to on-line status in developing countries, development of improved methods for including preservation data in bibliographic records, and the problems of language-dependent cataloging practices (e.g., notes in the bibliographic record) provide a focus for additional work.

The Section also plans to appoint a Joint Advisory Committee, to include representatives of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL), to define and oversee a study to define the functional requirements of bibliographic records. Olivia Madison of Iowa State University Library will serve as chair.

This project will take into account a *Terms of Reference* paper on the subject previously prepared for CDNL by Henriette D. Avram of the Library of Congress and Tom Delsey of the National Library of Canada.

Functional requirements will be considered in relation to bibliographic records for all media.

The project to prepare a Concise ISBD(M), one that attempts to simplify the specifications of the full version to reflect bibliographic features of standard, contemporary trade publications, will resume now that Jay Lambrecht of the University of Illinois at Chicago has completed his Vosper Fellowship, surveying minimal-level cataloging policies, and taking into account the findings of his study. John Byrum of the Library of Congress will coordinate this effort.

The Review Group on Form and Structure of Corporate Names reported on its investigation of the problem of geographic qualifiers. After discussion, agreement was reached to recommend a policy whereby geographic names are added to uniform headings for corporate bodies when desirable to distinguish between homonymous names: generally they are not to be added to international bodies, bodies of no fixed location or with activities not limited to the site of the headquarters, or bodies whose names imply the geographic names that otherwise would have provided

the qualifier. This recommendation, together with examples, will be published in *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control* (*ICBC*).

Also to be published in *ICBC* is a paper that the committee discussed at length: "Problems and Prospects of Linking Various Single-Language and/or Multi-Language Name Authority Files," prepared by members Eugenie Greig of Macquarie University Library in Sydney and Eeva Murtomaa of the Helsinki University Library.

The section will offer a program meeting for the New Delhi IFLA Conference in 1992 to cover the topic of education of catalogers and catalog users and will cosponsor several workshops, including one on bibliographic control of publications issued on CD-ROM.

–John D. Byrum Jr.

Section on Cataloguing

The Section on Cataloguing held its annual program Aug. 20. The first paper, "International Cataloguing Policy Impact on the Development of Bibliographic Description: Standards in the U.S.S.R." was presented by Lilija Chibisenkova of the Lenin State Library.

She began by stating that the international cooperation of national libraries requires a systematic plan for creating a world information network. Cooperative efforts are needed in the areas of creation of international loan services, international exchange of titles, coordination of acquisition policies, documentation, and automation and technologies.

Bibliographic services are the key to this cooperation. The availability of bibliographic information is coordinated by national libraries and publishing houses by means of international standards such as those of IFLA.

In the Soviet Union, reconciliation of national standards with international ones has not been achieved, though this problem should be solved during our forthcoming revision of cataloging standards.

We believe there are two steps needed to modernize standards for bibliographic description. The first is to preserve state standards for description of different types of documents, analogous to the individual ISBDs. The second is to develop a uniform standard containing the most general requirements for description of items of all types, patterned after the ISBD(G). Comparison of standards for bibliographic description has identified certain areas on which to concentrate.

The development of existing national standards for bibliographic description within the U.S.S.R.–a cooperative effort among libraries, scientific institutions and publishing houses–is coordinated by the Interdepartmental Commission on Cataloguing (ICC) in the Lenin State Library. Among questions that need to be researched are: the unification of abbreviations; the adaptation of standards to large manual card catalogs; and the unification of rules for headings.

The importance of headings increases in machine-readable data bases, so it is necessary to speed up creation of our national authority files.

A major effort to revise standards for bibliographic description will start in the U.S.S.R. in 1992. The main focus will be on bibliographic description for use in computer-aided information/bibliographic systems. The Lenin State Library is introducing new information technology.

Two trends predominate. First is the creation of large data bases with minicomputers, and second is local workstations using personal computers, with teleaccess to the minicomputers. Several tasks are carried out in the computer-aided mode, such as creating entries for new accessions of foreign publications; printing catalog cards by laser printer; issuing union catalogs of foreign maps and printed music; and bibliographies on specific subjects.

The reorganization of the System of Standardization in the Sphere of Information, Librarianship, and Editorial/Publishing Activities (SIBID) in the U.S.S.R. is a step toward the use of international standards.

Technical Committee 191 "Scientific and Technical Information, Librarianship and Publishing" was formed, patterned after ISO/TC46. The new Technical Program of TC191 for 1991–1995 has been approved. It includes the revision of 40 state standards, and 18 of 49 standards issued by the ISO/TC46 were introduced into our practice.

The program also plans the revision of the most important standards, namely, those for bibliographic description, presentation of names in headings and the communication format for the exchange of bibliographic data on magnetic tape. Soviet specialists engaged in information processing pay constant attention to the development of IFLA's Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) program and will need to direct their efforts to adapting new trends of UBCIM to Soviet practice. The ICC in the Lenin State Library will undertake Russian translations of several of the ISBDs, beginning with ISBD(M) in 1991.

The speaker approved of the aims and principles of the new Medium-term Program of the IFLA Section on Cataloguing for 1992–1997 and expressed hope that Soviet specialists who contributed to the ISBD will be able to participate actively in the implementation of the section's program.

The second presentation on "Finno-Ugric Peoples and Languages: The Finnish Uralica Data Base and its International Connections" was made by Irja-Leena Suhonen of the Helsinki University Library, Finland.

The Uralic language family includes the Finno-Ugric and Samoyedic languages, which are spoken by about 25 million people as their principal language, the majority of whom live in northern Eurasia. The cultural level of these peoples is high, and their history goes back about 6,000 years. The oldest written texts date from the 13th century.

The five-year project between the Academy of Finland and the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. is cataloguing research about the Finno-Ugric and Samoyedic languages, peoples and cultures. The project results will be a data base and also a printed bibliography, *Bibliographica Studiorum Uralicorum 1917–1987.*

Material is being collected from the following fields: linguistics, folkloristics, archaeology and literary research. The project has in many ways taken into account the international use of the material and automatic information exchange. Cataloging and classification are based on international standards. Subject descriptors are given both in the national language and English.

The languages and peoples of the project are studied in many countries in which these languages are not spoken. The exchange of research data requires the drawing up of an international documentation system, which also has to be continuously updated. The speaker concluded by reporting that a decided turn has been taken to concentrate primarily on linguistics in the follow-up project, because the significance of linguistics has always been considered central in cultural research.

Olivia Madison of the Iowa State University Library read a presentation on "Indexing and Retrieving Special Materials in Online Catalogues" for Lenore Coral of Cornell University.

This paper emphasized the importance to catalogers of being aware of how the data they enter is searched and displayed in on-line public catalogs, particularly in brief record displays. In the days of card catalogs, the cataloger was in full charge of how headings were displayed and indexed. But lately, authority has been relinquished to system designers who, according to the speaker, often make decisions without fully consulting either the public service or cataloging sector of the library. Both sectors suffer when display results are inadequate.

This is particularly true for non-book materials because, for example, data such as the date of scores are often elusive; many generic uniform titles are used (particularly in music cataloging), which prove meaningless without the name of the composer; and more versions of specific titles often exist than is true of books.

Cataloging codes need to be revised in light of the indexing provided by the computer systems. This must be done in a way that no one system is privileged. More needs to be done on the basis of transaction analysis to enable a firmer grasp of the way materials are accessed.

Based on these studies, schemes need to be devised in conjunction with the system designers that will provide users with efficient access to the materials held. Catalogs, whatever their form, are sophisticated tools. Patrons need instruction to use them well.

Many of the systems now in use are inherently deficient. Pressure should be brought on their designers to modify them so they serve all the users of a library. To achieve this, librarians must clearly articulate the modes of access for different forms of materials in the collection. This will require a dialogue among those who work in the technical services, those who are in public services and those who translate their needs into automated form.

During the discussion that followed many comments endorsed Ms. Coral's thesis.

—John D. Byrum Jr.

Government Information And Official Publications

Tatyana V. Ershova, section chief in the Department of Foreign Acquisitions and International Book Exchange, presented a very informative and frank paper on "The Lenin State Library of the U.S.S.R. as a National Library and Official Publications."

The Lenin State Library (GBL) has been developing its collection of domestic official publications since its founding in 1862. This collection now totals over 1.2 million items. Since 1962, the GBL has developed an active exchange program that is its principal source for enhancing its 600,000-item collection of foreign documents. Since *perestroika,* interest in foreign documents has increased greatly as an invaluable base of information on highly developed countries' experience relative to forming democratic institutions.

While official publications are reported in all GBL public catalogs, access is hampered for a variety of reasons. These include: absence of special current and retrospective bibliographies, insufficient acquisitions of foreign materials to meet user demands, imperfect GBL reference tools, lack of staff and shortage of equipment and computerized services.

To overcome these deficiencies, a centralized official documents department has been proposed, an idea that has been maturing since 1972. Such a department would be responsible for providing expert assistance in such specialized areas as developing improved bibliographic services, arranging exhibits and improved publicity, conducting research and organizing seminars.

Looking further into the future, the GBL role in the world of official information exchange should include preparation of the bibliographic index of the U.S.S.R. official publications according to ISBD and all adopted communication standards.

"Documents of the Seven-Power Summit" by Peter I. Hajnal, University of Toronto Library, was a well-researched and -crafted overview of the annual economic summit of major industrialized powers and the documentary sources related to the summits.

One of the most important of the less structured international arrangements is what Mr. Hajnal refers to as the seven-power summit, commonly known as the economic summit.

The summit was born out of the profound economic events of the 1970s that included the enlargement of the European Community and the oil crisis. The first summit took place in France in 1975 with the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany, Japan and Italy participating. Canada joined in 1976 and the EC members joined in 1977. Summits have been held annually through 1991 with London III.

Topics cover a broad range of economic issues including: inflation, exchange rates, oil, debt, tariff and trade. Political as well as economic issues find their way onto the agenda. These have included air hijackings, Indochinese refugees, war in Afghanistan, the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, the hostages held in the Middle East, and various other conflicts in the region.

The principal document of each summit is the "final communiqué." The preparation of the final communiqué is a long, complicated process taking place during the year leading up to the summit. The communiqué is presented by the leader of the host country. Other documentation relating to the summits are the political, or noneconomic declaration, the chairman's summary, transcripts of press conferences, statements from the chair and outside communications to the summit. The most important recent example of the latter was then Soviet President Gorbachev's 23-page letter this year, which caused a flurry of activity and resulted in Mr. Gorbachev's meeting with summit leaders.

Collecting summit documents represents a special challenge. The surest means is to attend and collect papers as they appear. If this is not possible, a good deal of bibliographic skill and tenacity is required.

Summit documents appear in such sources as the *U.S. Dept. of State Bulletin* and *La politique élsangère de la France*. Many documents can be obtained by directly contacting appropriate government offices of participating countries. This approach has had much success.

–Kimberly W. Dobbs

Section on Statistics

Michael P. Garfalo, Los Angeles County Public Library, in his paper "How Much Is Enough" describes how statistical methods and modeling are used to determine allocation of staff resources at one of the world's largest public library systems.

The Los Angeles County P.L. uses what the system refers to as the Library Activity Index to predict the workload at each of its 97 branches and service outlets. The Index gives information on total staff hours needed to operate each branch and how many hours in each of four job classifications are needed. It provides a means for comparing workload demands at each branch. All of this is based on using standard work measurement techniques and work performance statistics to develop a model that is run on a microcomputer using a standard spreadsheet program.

The information created from the model is used for a variety of purposes, including making budget proposals, allocating staff, allocating budgets for purchasing library materials, determining the classification and pay levels of branch managers and grouping libraries for various purposes.

There are, of course, a number of pitfalls and problems in use of a system such as this. Inaccurate data are guarded against through careful attention to methodology, close and continuous monitoring and staff training. A more difficult problem is how to prevent the rich branches from getting richer and the poor from getting poorer. Rigorous use of the model would give a branch with declining use fewer resources, which might cause further decline. This sort of problem is dealt with by such techniques as setting minimum staffing levels.

Another issue is the validity of comparing workloads at large and small branches. Adjustments must be made depending on the task. Monitoring building conditions requires more time in a large branch, but the time required to register a new patron is the same at all branches.

Staffers have supported the use of the model because they were interested in a "clearly stated, consistently applied and fair method for allocating personnel resources."

Alan MacDougall, director of the Library and Information Statistics Unit, Loughborough University, took a more theoretical approach to the subject in "Performance Assessment: Today's Confusion, Tomorrow's Solution?"

Mr. MacDougall begins by discussing five general areas of confusion surrounding performance assessment: imprecise and inappropriately used terminology, linguistic and cultural differences, lack of clarity over methods, false expectations and conflicting approaches to application.

Mr. MacDougall, in his review of the literature, draws several conclusions. Library managers will face increased pressure to obtain, "value for money." Recently, there has been growing attention devoted to performance assessment even though most of this has been focused in the public library section.

Mr. MacDougall feels that "recent developments at the national and

international level suggest that the library and information world is giving serious attention to the understanding of the concept, development and implementation of performance assessment."

One of the most important of these developments is preparation of good manuals, including ALA's *Output Measures for Public Libraries: A Manual of Standardized Procedures.* The manuals are useful as guides to types of performance assessment and to the methods used in data collection and analysis.

A second important development is preparation of standards. ISO will be publishing three new or revised standards in 1991 relating to library statistics. In May 1991, participating countries on the ISO Library Statistics Committee (ISO TC46 Sc8) voted unanimously to begin work on a standard on indicators of library performance.

Mr. MacDougall feels optimistic that library development of performance assessment will grow.

Tatyana Goncharova, U.S.S.R. State Committee on Statistics, and Ludmila Kozlova, Lenin State Library, review some comparative library statistics for the years 1985 and 1989 and also outline the system in the Soviet Union for collecting library statistics. The emphasis in the paper is on public libraries.

Library statistics are collected and analyzed by the State Committee for Statistics. Public libraries report statistics annually in "five sections, including measures characterizing the total floor area and the condition of library premises; the number of readers; book circulation and the content of book stock; the magnitude of staff and their educational level and financial activities."

The data are collected and summarized at all administrative levels and published annually in several statistical sources. The analysis operates not only with absolute figures but also with relative ones. The relative measures used are the average number of libraries per 10,000 population, total books in stock per 100 population, the number of books and periodicals per library and reader, the average number of readers per library, the average number of loans per reader, circulation of the total collection and its subject parts.

In comparing 1989 with 1985, statistics have declined in a number of areas. The number of public libraries decreased from 134,100 to 133,700. Total books increased, but books per 100 population declined from 754 to 744. The number of readers shrunk, as did the number of loans, from 3.2 to 2.8 million. The general condition of library buildings declined as the number of needed repairs increased. Both males and females are spending less spare time reading as spare time overall is shrinking.

Statistical surveys of school, academic, research and special libraries are conducted every five years. Because the problem of the material and technical equipment of libraries is an urgent one, the State Committee for Statistics is planning to devote attention to the problem, and survey methodology is being worked out.

—Kimberly W. Dobbs

Section on Serial Publications

The Standing Committee of the Section on Serial Publications met twice during the conference under the chairmanship of Marjorie Bloss, Center for Research Libraries, United States. Election of officers was the most critical agenda item because neither the current chair nor secretary were able to stand for reelection.

Suzanne Santiago, director of the International Serials Data System, was elected chair by acclamation. Elise Hermann, Danish National Library, was elected secretary by acclamation. The SC also dealt with a variety of other matters, including status reports on committee projects and final review of the new Medium-Term Program for 1992–97.

The Section convened an open program under the theme "Serials and Standards." The first of three papers was presented by Patricia R. Harris, executive director, National Information Standards Organization, and was titled "The Development of International Standards: Exploring the ISO/IFLA Relationship."

Ms. Harris reminded attendees of the impact of standards on all aspects of modern life, including on the information community.

At the international level, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has primary responsibility for standards development. ISO Technical Committee (TC) 46 is charged with standardization relating to libraries and documentation. Ms. Harris reviewed the structure of TC46, describing the roles of its six subcommittees.

TC46 is working on more than 40 new standards to be added to the 30 already published. Each new standard goes through five stages of development that take an average of eight years to complete. ISO committees receive assistance from a number of liaison groups. IFLA is a liaison member of TC46 and has played a vital role in the development of a number of standards. Ms. Harris stressed that standards development is a process that depends heavily on the support of a large number of individuals and professional organizations.

Natalia Kasparova and A.S. Chestyakova, Lenin State Library, described the application of the State Normative Document, adopted in 1986, with the development of a national system of union catalogs. The Normative Document defines the main objectives, nomenclature and structure of union catalogs. The system is based on a hierarchy of all-Union, republican, territorial, regional, district and city union catalogs.

Despite careful planning, adoption of clear standards and support

at all levels, a number of problems make the successful development of a national system of union catalogs extremely difficult. In the present political situation, cooperation at the republic level is more difficult to achieve.

The technical skills and resources differ across the Soviet Union and at different levels within the system. There is a general lack of automated support; many libraries still have printed catalogs. Now it is even difficult to find publishers for library projects because such projects are not nearly as profitable as more popular works.

In spite of these and other problems the work continues. The authors conclude by pointing out that the creation of such a large and complex project would be impossible without agreed upon standards for compiling the index entry, which is the basis for the union catalog.

Helga Schwarz, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut der Stiftung, spoke on the theme "Sharing Information by Means of Standardization." Ms. Schwarz traced the history of the development of Germany's serials data base (Zeitshriften-datenbank, ZDB) from 1970. The ZDB is a national union catalog of serial publications in German academic libraries.

Ms. Schwarz recalled a number of difficulties faced by the project planners in 1970, including an almost total lack of agreed upon standards and no modern cataloging code. Ms. Schwarz, based on this experience, identified a seven-layer standards model necessary for a national union catalog. The areas requiring standards or agreed upon practices are:

- ☐ data carrier and data transfer
- ☐ character coding
- ☐ character sets
- ☐ cataloging rules
- ☐ data format
- ☐ common agreements about rules and formats and
- ☐ authority control.

Ms. Schwarz concluded by looking at the future, when data will be shared across systems which will, of course, necessitate additional international standards, including the OSI Reference Model. Ms. Schwarz stressed that in addition to OSI, "the library community needs urgently an international standard for retrieval languages and, above all, a standard for retrieval functions."

—Kimberly Dobbs

Round Table on Newspapers

Lacking a quorum, the Round Table did not hold a business meeting but did sponsor an excellent open program. Judith Fortson, the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, delivered a paper titled "Collection Development and Management Problems Associated with Russian and Slavic Newspapers: the Hoover Institution Library's Experience."

Ms. Fortson, supported by a cost analysis study, presented a strong case for microfilming as the best option for the development and preservation of newspaper collections. She said this may be the only practical alternative for building collections, particularly in countries where political unrest may make acquisition of inkprint materials extremely difficult.

Ms. Fortson closed by urging that the Round Table focus on the following efforts:

- ☐ establishment of a coordinated microfilming program
- ☐ investigation of funding sources
- ☐ encouragement of cooperative bibliographic efforts
- ☐ development of preservation standards
- ☐ reconciliation of international copyright restrictions and
- ☐ promotion of staff exchange.

Olga Yadykina, chief of the Newspaper Department, Lenin State Library (LSL), in her paper treated program attendees to a comprehensive overview of the Lenin Library's newspaper activities. The LSL began its newspaper collection in 1864 with 281 titles and in 1990 received 9,997 titles, one of the largest collections in the Soviet Union. The number of titles received is increasing rapidly; 500 had been added as of August 1991.

Service to readers is an important function of the Newspaper Department. The reading room was visited by more than 18,000 readers last year. Each year more that 20,000 newspaper issues are indexed.

The department also prepares thematic bibliographies such as "The Chronicle of the Defense of Moscow, 1941–1942."

The Newspaper Department supports a number of cooperative collection development, cataloging and reference activities. It works in close cooperation with other Moscow libraries and local newspaper publishers. The department's very active acquisitions, cataloging, indexing and reference programs are carried out with a staff of 70.

—Kimberly Dobbs

Open Session of the Section On Information Technology

Document delivery, especially as related to image processing, was the topic for the Open Session of the Section on Information Technology.

Leigh Swain from the National Library of Canada (NLC) led with "Electronic Document Delivery and Libraries: Technologies, Strategies and Issues," a paper he had prepared with Gary Cleveland, also from NLC. Citing the disparity between the technology now applied to bibliographic information access and that in place for actual document supply, the authors described a number of technologies and international standards that are becoming available for electronic document generation, storage, and transfer.

For electronic document conversion, techniques based on scanning, OCR and fax were described, along with the document representation standards: Office Document Architecture (ODA), Standard Page Description Language (SPDL) and

Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Getting documents into a *standard* electronic form is a major obstacle to electronic document delivery.

New mass storage technologies include CD-ROM, WORM (similar to CD-ROM except allows writing once, in addition to reading, on the device) and magneto-optical disks (erasable optical storage devices). Various communications technologies such as research networks, ISDN and fibre, were discussed along with relevant standards, such as X.400 for store and forward delivery and file transfer protocols.

Related issues involving copyright, scholarly refereeing, bibliographic control and archiving will need to be worked out for the electronic document environment. However, the ultimate goal, to enable end-users to select, request and obtain documents from local workstations, may eventually be possible as the above technologies converge toward integrated document delivery systems.

Following the overview, the second paper, "Remote Public Access to Picture Data Banks" by Luce-Marie Albiga, described an imaging project at the library in the Pompidou Center in Paris. The Bibliothèque Publique d'Information (BPI) in the Centre Georges Pompidou serves 13,000 diverse users each day. These users, because of the dominance of images through television today, expect "visual reference works" when using libraries for either instructional or entertainment purposes. The BPI has thus undertaken a project to provide end-user access to their image data bank.

In preparation for the project, BPI carried out a survey and research that indicated the following:

☐ Users want good quality images, including detail and color, if they are to be regarded as highly useful without having to go to the original.

☐ Users need captions and other related information readily available, on-line or otherwise – pictures alone are not very useful.

☐ Users need to be able to make copies of the images, preferably in color. They are willing to pay for reproductions as they do now for photocopies.

The BPI project involves the library in the Centre Pompidou and five other city libraries. Workstations will be available at each site on which the BPI image data with captions can be viewed. ISDN technology is being used, with which a good color picture can be channeled in eight seconds. The picture digitizing meets the video broadcast standard of 720 dots x 576 lines with standard JPEG compression. This is seen as only a first step to more sophisticated services. Statistics will be kept on user behavior, which can pave the way for development of new educational material.

The last paper, "The Beilstein Institute Facsimile Project," described work at the Beilstein Institute in Frankfurt, Germany. It was presented by Reinhard Ecker of the institute. Beilstein is using digital technology to create write-once-read-many (WORM) discs that contain images of all pages of articles in the organic chemistry field, which is the focus of the institute's services. The initial system is for in-house use only to make their product generation processes more efficient. After two years of study of existing hardware and other options, and approximately eight months of implementation work, the first phase of the system is operational.

The basic system is composed of two scanner stations, for image input, a central server, and a jukebox for WORM discs and drives. Approximately 150 journals are scanned, which cover around 90 percent of the literature needed in the Beilstein products. In the first two years of operation, nearly 3 million pages were scanned, making the institute one of the largest users of digital recording and reproduction technology.

The implementation of the system has been without major objection from the staff who use it; thus it has proved to be effective and economical. The FileNet hardware that is used has been a good foundation (a frequent critical problem with new technology) and, recently, a larger jukebox has been introduced that will give Beilstein capacity for the future.

New projects are already emerging from the original one. With so many articles in electronic form for internal requirements, an external document delivery service is an obvious next step. Using many types of general-use networks, the images for an article could be delivered within five minutes directly to the desk of the person who ordered them, as part of a fully automatic 24-hour service. As might be expected, the main problem is with copyright, but Beilstein is working with publishers on agreements.

–Sally H. McCallum

Workshop on Retrospective Conversion

Approximately 50 participants attended the Section on Information Technology's Workshop on Retrospective Conversion in Moscow, and the sessions were made available through the sound system to a staff room in the host library, the National Public Library for Science and Technology.

Catherine Lupovici from Jouve moderated the morning session that included an opening overview from Stephen Massil of the University of London, technical options from Donna Duncan of McGill University, project management from Joachim Leonhard of the University of Tubingen in Germany, and bibliographic and encoding standards from Fernanda Campos of Biblioteca National in Portugal.

Following lunch provided by the host library, the afternoon session was moderated by Wilda Newman

of Johns Hopkins University. The final "basics" session was presented on conversion priorities by Dorothy McGarry of the University of California at Los Angeles. Then a special paper by A. Vostrikov and Yu. Fenin on a scanning project at the Lenin Library was read. Ms. Newman closed the workshop with a review of a list of companies offering retrospective conversion services. Brochures from three large service vendors—Saztec, Jouve and OCLC—and a bibliography of articles on the topic were provided in the workshop packet.

The planned tie-in with the vendors in the IFLA exhibits did not quite work as planned. The host library provided a bus, which left for the exhibits after some delay, but with the general conditions in Moscow, it only went to the convention center. There were not many exhibitors for this IFLA and the exhibit hall was a 10-minute walk from the center. During the week, however, many people enjoyed the red workshop ribbons that were designed to identify exhibitors and workshop attendees to each other.

The participants appreciated the very good facilities and amenities that were provided for the workshop by the host library and its staff: Andrei Zemskov, director; his deputies Anna Skvortsova and Yakov Shraiberg; and many others.

The workshop was planned by Information Technology with the Section on Cataloguing. The planning committee was Sally McCallum, chair, Pat Oddy (Cataloging), Monica Ertel, Stephen Massil and Françoise Lemelle.

—*Sally H. McCallum*

Standing Committee of the Section On Information Technology

The Standing Committee of the Section on Information Technology met twice during the week of IFLA to plan programs and projects for the coming year.

One major project is a study of graphical user interfaces for information access systems. The section, together with the Universal Data Transfer core program and the Deutsche Forschungsgemenschaft (DFG), is sponsoring a demonstration project and user test on the topic. Phase I, which includes information gathering and design, is to begin in the fall of 1991. Phase II will be the development of a prototype, and in Phase III user tests will be conducted. Each of these phases is dependent upon successful recommendations from the previous phase.

The graphical user interface project is being carried out in the United States at the University of Alabama under the general direction of Michael Malinconico.

A second, related study will be undertaken by J.H.E. van der Starre from the Netherlands. This may take the form of a literature review on hyper-text and hyper-card user interfaces.

The IT open session at the IFLA conference in New Delhi will focus on planning required for the initial introduction of technology into an unautomated environment. The program will highlight especially the unusual problems encountered due to climate and other physical conditions, procurement difficulties, and limited availability of equipment maintenance and parts in developing countries.

A satellite meeting on multilingual and multiscript materials that had originally been planned for India had been moved to Barcelona in 1993 by the planning committee. Various topics for the IT open session in Barcelona were considered. "Intelligent buildings," which encompasses the complex wiring demands on new and renovated library buildings to provide automation and network support for current and future automation needs, was one topic discussed.

New officers for the Section on Information Technology were elected. Sally McCallum of the United States, and Christain Lupovici of France, were elected chair and secretary, respectively, of the Standing Committee.

—*Sally H. McCallum*

Core Programs

A reorganization of the IFLA professional program was announced in Moscow. It is designed to close the gap between the core programs, which were formerly coordinated by the Program Management Committee, and the membership sections and divisions, which were managed by the Professional Board. In the future, the Professional Board will direct the entire professional program, which will be composed of the core programs and the work of the sections and divisions. Also, one staff member, rather than two program leaders, at IFLA Headquarters will coordinate the professional program.

The other major IFLA body, the Executive Board, will handle all agreements, such as those between the core programs and the host institutions, establish budgets and cover other administrative tasks. A number of advantages are anticipated from this new structure, including less overlap of projects, more efficient use of limited funds, better interaction between activities of the sections and those of the core programs and less repetitive reporting.

Under the new structure, the advisory committees to the ccre programs are to be discontinued, thus the last meetings of the advisory committees to the core programs were held in Moscow. The five core programs are:

- ☐ Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM)
- ☐ Universal Dataflow and Telecommunication (UDT)
- ☐ Universal Availability of Publications (UAP)
- ☐ Preservation and Conservation (PAC)

☐ Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP)

–Sally H. McCallum

UBCIM Advisory Committee

The meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) IFLA core program was held Sunday, Aug. 18, in Moscow. The Program Director, Kurt Nowak, and the Program Manager Marie-France Plassard, reported on UBCIM activities over the last year.

Five publications were printed by Saur for UBCIM and are now available: *ISBD (A)*, the ISBD rules for older monographic material; *ISBD (PM)*, for printed music; *UNIMARC/ Authorities; Dewey: An International Perspective*, proceedings from a workshop on Dewey Decimal Classification and DDC 20 in Paris in 1989; and *Management and Use of Name Authority Files*, a study carried out at the Bibliotheque Nacionale in Paris in 1990–91.

A number of projects are under way or planned under the auspices of UBCIM. A study of the issue of copyright of bibliographic records is under way. The first two of a series of workshops on bibliographic control are planned for South America in 1992 and Africa in 1993. A special workshop on access to periodicals is planned for the 1992 IFLA meeting in New Delhi.

The new structure for IFLA under which the Advisory Committee will no longer exist was explained by Hope Clement, chair of the IFLA Professional Board.

–Sally H. McCallum

Section on Acquisitions And Exchange

The section elected Ulrich Montag of Germany as chair and Marjorie Bloss of the United States as secretary and expressed its appreciation to Joachim-Felix Leonhard (Germany), outgoing chair.

Since last year's conference, additional work was done in the area of differential pricing, which has been for several years a continuing concern of the standing committee. A resolution passed by last year's workshop on the topic of differential pricing was discussed at the Professional Board's spring meeting.

The most important part of the resolution was the recommendation that publishers establish one price for a title in the country of publication. In the meantime, publishers lobbied the Professional Board to delete this recommendation and add instead a statement that librarians should seek additional funds for the purchase of books. This change to the workshop's original resolution was not accepted. It is hoped that a conference can be arranged for next March, under the auspices of the European Libraries and Publishers Association, to continue discussions of differential pricing, to which both librarians and publishers will be invited. It is recognized that the problem is a long-range one and is likely to be a topic at international meetings for years to come.

Unfortunately, this year's workshop, which was to have been a discussion of international exchange, was not held. Due to the serious illness of the key investigator, survey results were not ready for presentation, and a substitute informal discussion had to be canceled due to the last-minute unavailability of simultaneous translation for the session. The section will complete the survey analysis and prepare a report for publication.

Three stimulating papers were presented at the open forum, which was very well attended, despite the fact that ground transportation was severely disrupted at the time. Judy McDermott of the United States read a paper written by Samuel Demas, also of the United States, on the systematic selection of electronic publications.

Mr. Demas's paper recounted the experiences of the Mann Library at Cornell in establishing an organizational mechanism for mainstreaming the selection of electronic publications. For good selection decisions to be made in this area, a high degree of cooperation among a variety of experts, both technical and subject, must be achieved. Expertise must be developed in the new formats, with a view toward identifying and planning for a myriad of issues that are not problematic in the selection of print material: hardware and software availability and compatibility, user training, adequate lighting and physical workstation, licensing agreements, unique preservation concerns and cataloging standards.

A paper on the acquisition policy of the U.S.S.R. National Library collections stimulated a lively discussion among Soviet librarians in attendance. The paper was written by Z.P. Sorokina, consultant to the Library of the Secretariat of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, and S.M. Shpantseva of Lenin State Library. Particularly at issue in discussions was the relationship between the Lenin State Library and other libraries below the national level, and how those libraries might share in Lenin State's collections.

Bearing in mind that this IFLA conference presented one of the first opportunities for more than 500 Soviet librarians to meet nationally, these sometimes heated and always very political discussions took on a decidedly national, rather than international flavor. Other Soviet librarians in attendance took this opportunity to thank Western exchange partners for their generosity over the years, which caused yet other attendees to remind the West that Soviet libraries were not looking for charity, but wished to pay their own way, through exchange.

A discussion over a proposed Soviet Presidential Library ensued, as one member of the audience warned Western libraries against requests for materials for this library,

arguing that the need is for books for existing libraries, not proposed ones. This discussion took place on Tuesday afternoon, as rumors spread through the conference that an armed attack on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's "White House" was imminent.

The state of acquisitions and collection development in Nigeria was discussed in a paper by Audrey B. Ojoade of Nigeria, who stressed the importance of written acquisition policies in creating library collections. But even the most careful policies are difficult to carry out in a situation such as Nigeria's, with the recurring problems of economic difficulties, lack of organized book trade, a publishing industry in its infancy, increasing prices of foreign imprints and poor bibliographic control.

The section will plan a workshop for New Delhi on the acquisition and collection development issues associated with new media.

—Judy C. McDermott

Council Session

Only one session of Council was held, on Aug. 18. The second session, scheduled for Aug. 23, was canceled due to the uncertainty of the political situation. Resolutions slated to be discussed at the second session, one on South Africa and one on permanent paper, will be handled through a mail ballot.

Hans-Peter Geh, outgoing president of IFLA, welcomed delegates and called for a minute of silence to honor those who had died during the past year. Most notable among those honored was Guust van Wesemael, highly respected deputy secretary general of the association for many years. His death was a great loss to the association and was marked similarly in many other meetings during the conference.

Ludmilla Kozlova, Lenin State Library, and chair of the organizing committee, welcomed delegates on behalf of the host country and reported that 1,054 delegates were registered from 67 countries. More than 500 delegates attended from the Soviet Union, marking the first opportunity for such extensive Soviet participation.

The most important order of business for this Council meeting was the election of officers. Robert Wedgeworth of the United States was elected to a four-year term as president, defeating Anthony J. Evans of the United Kingdom and Stephney Ferguson of Jamaica. For only the second time in IFLA's history, a delegate from a non-European country was elected to its highest leadership position.

Elected to Executive Board were: Marcelle Beaudiquez of France, Marty Terry of Cuba, Eeva-Maija Tammekann of Finland, Robert D. Stueart of the United States, and Warren Horton of Australia.

Marcelle Beaudiquez, from the Bibliothèque Nationale in France, presented a somewhat somber treasurer's report. Sounding a note familiar to all libraries and library associations, she urged that the organization find a way to increase income through increased membership, and decreased expenses.

Council supported in principle a recommendation prepared by an Executive Board Working Group, which is intended to simplify and consolidate IFLA's very complicated organizational structure. The most significant changes are the abolition of advisory committees to the IFLA Core Programmes, and the disbanding of the Programme Management Committee.

Council also accepted a paper that set forth IFLA's long-term policy, formulated to guide strategic planning for the next 10 to 15 years. Operational plans, based on the long-term policy, are reflected in the medium-term programs devised by IFLA divisions and Core Programmes.

—Judy C. McDermott

Parliamentary Libraries Section: Standing Committee Meeting

The Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Libraries Section met Aug. 17 and Aug. 20. Ernst Kohl of the German Bundestag was elected to another two-year term as chairman, and William Robinson of the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress was newly elected to a two-year term as secretary of the Standing Committee.

Agenda items included plans for Satellite meetings of the section in conjunction with upcoming IFLA Conferences, section projects and publications, and outreach efforts to assist emerging parliamentary democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, the U.S.S.R. and its Republics, and Latin America.

—William H. Robinson

Parliamentary Libraries Section: Workshop and Section Dinner

The workshop for the Parliamentary Library section was held in the Kremlin and featured a discussion of the Library programs of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. as well as the Republic Supreme Soviets. The program was chaired by the Librarian of the Secretariat of the Supreme Soviet, Ms. Gavrilenko and was attended by Deputy Chairman Janovich of the Secretariat.

The discussion revealed an active SDI (selective dissemination of information) program in one of the republics and strong interest on the part of all for IFLA contact. The Baltic Republics are in the process of converting their National Libraries into meeting parliamentary needs as well, with the process of conversion already complete in Estonia.

The Section dinner provided an opportunity to celebrate the failure of the coup in the Soviet Union and to pay tribute to the ultimate success and vitality of the rule of law and democracy in the U.S.S.R. It was also a time to honor two retiring parliamentary librarians, Bengt Alexanderson of Sweden and Dr. Andresj Gwidg of Poland.

—William H. Robinson

Parliamentary Libraries Section: Open Meeting

The Open Meeting of the Parliamentary Libraries Section on Aug. 21 took place in a somber setting, with speakers noting the dampening effect of the coup and growing uncertainty in the face of mounting citizen opposition. The meeting was devoted to building democratic institutions in emerging parliamentary democracies.

Ernst Kohl of Germany discussed the importance of collections policies for parliamentary libraries, especially focusing on serials, newspapers and "gray literature" that often have such high political salience.

Brit Floistall of Norway highlighted the growing importance of television and other video forms of communication that are systematically archived and searched for Norwegian parliamentarians. She noted a cycle of interest that tended to peak in election years, as tapes of previous elections are carefully scanned and analyzed.

William Robinson of the U.S. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, discussed the process of creating a research capability for the Parliament, and provided different models for meeting the various needs of parliamentary and other systems of government. He recommended a more independent stance for East European parliaments than their Western parliamentary neighbors, in light of the need to break the previous over-reliance on executive decrees and ministerial dictates.

—William H. Robinson

Workshop: Libraries for the Blind; Joint Meeting with Interlending And Document Delivery

On Thursday, Aug. 22, 1991, the Section on Libraries for the Blind met at the Republican Library for the Blind in Moscow for the entire day. The theme was "New Technology and International Lending."

The morning session, devoted to future standards for braille technology and talking-book technology, consisted of two papers.

"Functional Requirements for the Library of Congress Talking-Book System: U.S. Input for an International Standard," from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH), was developed by Henry Paris, Lloyd Rasmussen and Judith Dixon and discussed by Henry Paris.

The paper contains a detailed description of the U.S. talking-book system. The purpose is to set in motion an international effort in which participating countries will compile information about their systems for use in designing a world standard interface that will allow for international exchange of talking books. The paper emphasizes the complexity of a talking-book system, which consists of much more than just the books and machines patrons use. The paper assigns elements of the U.S. system to five concentric rings that surround the consumer.

Systems discussed in order of contact with the consumer are:

- ☐ materials, i.e., machines and books
- ☐ the service and distribution network
- ☐ the production industry
- ☐ system design and operation, and
- ☐ sources of funds and resources.

Responses from the audience indicated that other countries would begin to prepare similar documents.

The second paper, "Digitally Stored Braille," from the Royal National Institute for the Blind in London, prepared by J.M. Gill and presented by Stephen King, is an update on the status of digitally stored braille and its use in Great Britain and Europe.

Despite predictions over the past 20 years that braille embossed on paper will be replaced by braille stored digitally (paperless braille), few braille publishers produce books in paperless form. Reasons have included the high cost of paperless-braille devices and the lack of user friendliness of many of the systems, particularly browsing and search facilities.

However, the advent of the inexpensive personal computer and the improving quality of the lower-priced speech synthesizers have generated new interest in distributing reading matter in digital form. The material can be read by those who can listen to synthetic speech or read a large character on a screen as well as on paperless braille devices.

Services in Europe are moving toward creating a standard interchange format to simplify the reading of digital data from a variety of sources. A separate but related matter is that copyright regulations regarding digital versions of books for the use of visually disabled persons are unclear in many countries.

The afternoon session was a joint meeting of the Libraries for the Blind and Interlending and Document Delivery. Five papers were delivered.

"International Interlending of Materials in Alternate Formats: Planning and Executing a Worldwide Project," from the JGB Cassette Library International in New York, by Bruce E. Massis, reports on the start of an IFLA-sponsored project to document the availability for interlending of reading materials held by libraries around the world. Mr. Massis presented a questionnaire sent to 260 libraries serving blind and print-handicapped individuals. Some of the responses to date and the plans for the next phase of the project were discussed.

"The Sharing of Special-Media Materials among Libraries: Sale, Loan, Exchange and Gift," from NLS/BPH, was developed by James Herndon, Tom Martin and Henry Paris and presented by Henry Paris.

The paper discusses the pros and cons of the purchase, loan, exchange and donation of braille and audio books and magazines and problems involved in sharing. A detailed procedure is presented for countries interested in obtaining Library of Congress materials.

"Information Services to Visually Impaired Readers," from the Republican Central Library for the Blind (RCLB) in Moscow, by L.N. Bykhovskaya, describes the RCLB as an information clearinghouse for all groups dealing with or interested in needs of blind readers. It is the central cataloging authority for recorded and braille books produced in the U.S.S.R., since reading materials for blind individuals are not included in other union catalogs. The RCLB periodically issues print catalogs of braille and talking books and catalog cards for libraries. Books are cataloged in accordance with international standards, and one of the main functions of the catalogs is to indicate the location of titles not in the collections of the RCLB.

Also produced is the monthly *Life of the Blind in the USSR*, a bibliographic index of current publications and articles about blindness. A service to readers in Moscow is "inquire-answer," which provides bibliographies of inkprint titles of scientific and educational materials in Moscow's largest libraries. Readers can then select a title and the RCLB will produce a recorded copy.

"Application of Electronic Equipment in the Library," by S.N. Vanshin of the RCLB, describes the provision of special reading machines as a reference service to readers. An automated work place (AWP) for the blind reader-researcher centers on the VersaBraille with computer and printer hookups. Other AWP services include provision of tape recorders and Optacons and, if necessary, the assistance of a librarian reader.

Electronic aids for blind people are not manufactured in the U.S.S.R., and the RCLB depends on Western products and assistance in this area, especially from Germany's Baum Elektronic.

"The Role of Libraries for the Blind in Social Rehabilitation of the Visually Disabled," by Galina Diyanaskaya of the RCLB, identifies ways libraries interact with other agencies to facilitate the rehabilitation of blind persons and help their integration as productive members of society.

—Henry B. Paris Jr.

IFLA Closing

The closing session of IFLA was opened with remarks from Nikolaj Gubenko, the U.S.S.R. Minister of Culture.

He thanked the IFLA participants for their support during the week and revealed that following his reassuring remarks at the IFLA opening on Monday, he had felt it necessary to resign his position on Tuesday, as he could not cooperate with the ruling committee that had taken over the government. He expressed the feeling that more than librarianship had been the conference work that week. Mr. Gubenko closed with a quote from Franklin Roosevelt: "Fear is the only thing we should be afraid of," indicating that the Soviet people and those who remained at the conference had met the challenge. He thanked the group for the individual bravery of all.

Because the Council II session had been canceled on Friday, the IFLA Executive Board had worked out a procedure for handling resolutions by mail. Only summaries of two resolutions on South Africa and one on a permanent paper were read.

Hope Clement, the outgoing chair of the IFLA Professional Board, summarized highlights of the professional program of the conference. She mentioned first the impressive number of papers from Soviet colleagues presented in the open sessions. The conference encompassed three preconference seminars, a dozen workshops, 25 sectional open sessions and three divisional open sessions, and many library visits. Thus, in spite of disruptions, the conference was a successful professional experience.

A number of professional resolutions arose from this activity, covering topics from UNIMARC to preservation to IFLA organizational studies.

Delegates from future conference sites, New Delhi in 1992 and Barcelona in 1993, made presentations, and a grant from the H.W. Wilson Co. to support interpreters for both of those meetings was announced.

Thanks were extended to the organizers, especially Ludmilla Koslova, head of the Soviet committee, to outgoing members of the Executive Board and Professional Board, and to the IFLA Headquarters staff. Hans Peter Geh, in his farewell speech as outgoing IFLA president after six years, announced that he and his wife will set up a fund to support travel of Soviet librarians to international meetings or to visit German libraries. Flowers were presented to Mrs. Geh and a medal and title of honorary president to Mr. Geh.

Robert Wedgeworth, the incoming president of IFLA, made the closing remarks. Referring to the difficult situation of the host country during the week, Mr. Wedgeworth recalled their courage in facing tanks with only their bodies, and quoted Frederick Douglass' words "without struggle there can be no freedom."

—Sally H. McCallum

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